



MINUTES

International Relations Committee of the Legislative Council

June 27, 2000

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Nancy Boettger
Senator Elaine Szymoniak

Representative Willard Jenkins
Representative Jack Drake
Representative Chuck Gipp
Representative Libby Jacobs

MEETING IN BRIEF

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- I. Procedural Business.
- II. Committee Discussion.
- III. Future Meetings.

International Relations Committee of the Legislative Council

I. Procedural Business.

Call to Order. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Nancy Boettger at 12:40 p.m. in Committee Room 24 of the Statehouse and was adjourned at 2:10 p.m. The minutes of the April 12, 2000 meeting of the Committee were approved as distributed.

II. Committee Discussion.

Session Accomplishments. The Committee discussed session accomplishments including the enactment of House File 2442 which established an International Relations Advisory Council and Legislative and Executive Branch Protocol Officers.

Iowa Department of Economic Development. Ms. Kathy Hill, Division Administrator, International Division, Iowa Department of Economic Development, discussed various activities of the International Division. She also discussed, in detail, the Division's procedures for in-bound delegations and provided samples of gifts provided by the International Division.

Legislative Protocol Officer. The Committee discussed a proposal made to the Service Committee of the Legislative Council regarding the position of Legislative Protocol Officer and staff. Chairperson Boettger noted that the Service Committee had approved the proposal with the caveat that the International Relations Committee could make additional recommendations to the Service Committee at its next meeting. The International Relations Committee determined that additional research is necessary to make a final recommendation to the Legislative Council. A subcommittee or the full committee will meet in August to discuss the position of Legislative Protocol Officer including job description, staffing needs and salary, and also to discuss the role of the Legislative Information Office and its staffing needs in light of the increasing prominence of visitor relations vis a vis the General Assembly.

International Relations Advisory Council – Membership Recommendations. The Committee discussed the directive in HF 2442 to the Committee to recommend nominees for membership on the International Relations Advisory Council. The Committee determined that a letter should be sent to commodity groups and international relations-oriented groups to request their participation.

International Gifts. Ms. Julie Livers, Director, Legislative Information Office reviewed a variety of gifts which are now available or which are potentially available for exchange with international visitors. The members of the Committee approved continuation of development of the gifts presented. Ms. Livers also provided a listing of the gifts supplied for the Honduran trip to Senators Boettger and Tinsman and a listing of the gifts purchased during the interim for the General Assembly. The Committee discussed the need for a Capitol gift shop, and Representative Gipp noted that renovation of the Capitol includes the expansion of the Legislative Information Office to provide for a permanent gift shop.

Use of State Seal. Ms. Livers discussed ongoing correspondence with the Governor's Office regarding the use of a graphic representation of the State Seal on nonpartisan gift items. The Committee determined that without approval, in writing, from the Governor's Office, the Committee would not proceed with the use of the State Seal, but would continue to correspond with the Governor's Office regarding this issue.

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Proposed Forms and Surveys. The Committee reviewed forms and surveys including a questionnaire for legislators regarding their interest in international relations, gift requests, and visitor introductions. The Committee determined that members should review the forms and make recommendations for any changes at the next meeting.

Travel Reports. Chairperson Boettger and Senator Tinsman reported on their trip to Honduras with the National Organization of Women Legislators. They noted that the gifts they presented were well received and that the visit has resulted in the potential of visitors to the homes of legislators. Ms. Amy Campbell, State Public Policy Group, was also a member of the group and provided a written report to the Committee for review.

III. Future Meetings.

The Committee will meet in August to discuss the issue of the Legislative Protocol Officer and other business.